

the part of the Chinese Government are not conducive to good U.S.-China relations.

The plight of the Tibetan people is a challenge to the global conscience. Because of our unique position in the world, the U.S. has a special opportunity and responsibility to promote the values of liberty, equality, and human rights that we hold dear. If the U.S. government is serious about helping the Tibetan people, it must promote negotiations between the government of China and His Holiness the Dalai Lama and make self-determination for Tibetans a priority in the U.S.-China relationship.

Thank you for your continued activism for the people of Tibet. Your actions, words and prayers will move mountains. Please be assured I will continue to support the aspirations of the Tibetan people to preserve their heritage and regain their freedom.

#### MOMENT OF QUIET REFLECTION IN SCHOOLS ACT

**HON. DAVID SCOTT**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to discuss legislation that I am introducing today that would establish a moment of quiet reflection in our public schools. I am pleased to be joined by Representatives MCINTYRE, TANNER, SHIMKUS, STENHOLM, LIPINSKI, FROST, LUCAS (KY), MEEK, PEARCE, ISAKSON, RENZI, BORDALLO, and BISHOP (GA) as cosponsors of my legislation.

My legislation will provide for a period of quiet reflection at the opening of school on every school day. In today's hectic society, all too few of the country's citizens are able to experience a moment of quiet reflection before plunging headlong into the day's activities. The country's young citizens are particularly affected by this absence of an opportunity for a moment of quiet reflection. Therefore, the nation's youth, and society as a whole, would be well served if students were afforded a moment of quiet reflection at the beginning of each day in the public schools.

In Georgia, I observed that after several killings on school campuses around the country, students came together to have a moment of quiet reflection. Noting that this moment of silence seemed to be beneficial and calming, I believe that providing students with an opportunity for quiet introspection at the beginning of each school day would help to combat violence among our students. Similar legislation in Georgia has been upheld by the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit which ruled that a moment of quiet reflection does not violate the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

On February 7, 2003, the U.S. Department of Education issued guidance on constitutionally protected prayer in public elementary and secondary schools. The Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools clarifies that as a condition of receiving Elementary and Secondary Education Act funds, state and local school agencies must certify that if a school has a "minute of silence" that students are free to pray silently, or not to pray, during

these periods of time. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation providing a moment of quiet reflection at the beginning of each school day.

#### HONORING MRS. ROSEMARY PACE

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the late Mrs. Rosemary Pace of Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Mrs. Pace passed away on March 5, 2003. Mrs. Pace was a community leader and an outstanding citizen.

Mrs. Pace was a native of Elmhurst, Illinois. She was born on November 14, 1914. Throughout her lifetime, she touched the lives of many with her civic involvement. She was a home economics teacher at Bethel College in Hopkinsville and taught at the Fort Campbell Independent Schools for 18 years.

After retirement, Mrs. Pace continued to serve her community in many ways. She was a board member of the Senior Citizens Center, president and vice president of the Christian County Retired Teachers Association, president and vice president of the Christian County Chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, president of the Christian County Homemakers Association, secretary and treasurer of the Christian County Extension Council, board member of the Kentucky Farm Bureau, and a volunteer teacher at Holiday Elementary School.

Mrs. Pace also organized and distributed food commodities for Pennyrite Allied Services. She served as president and vice president of the St. Elmo Homemakers, and she was president of the Hunting Creek Homemakers. These are only some of her many community service activities.

Mrs. Pace was a strong believer in education. She founded the Family Career and Community Leaders (FHA) Rosemary M. Pace Region II Scholarship fund. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, International.

Mrs. Pace spent countless hours establishing and promoting the Farmers Market in Hopkinsville. She received numerous awards and honors for her outstanding volunteer work in the community and the state. She epitomized the word volunteer and her service to the community will always be held as an example to others.

Mrs. Pace was known in the community for her trademark hats. Rarely was she seen in public without a beautiful red hat. She was a truly exceptional citizen.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call attention to the selfless acts of Rosemary M. Pace for all her efforts on behalf of so many, and I am honored to bring her accomplishments to the attention of this House.

#### SUPPORT THE MOSQUITO ABATEMENT FOR SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 342, the Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act. This is a particularly important issue in my state of Illinois and for my district, both of which have been disproportionately impacted by West Nile Virus—more so than almost any other part of the country.

The latest survey shows that Illinois is suffering the highest numbers of human cases of West Nile in the country, 877 cases and 62 deaths. Over 630 cases of these cases were in Suburban Cook County and the Greater Chicago area, leading to 37 deaths. Compared with nationwide data, these numbers reveal an uncommonly high outbreak ratio in the Chicago Metro region.

H.R. 342, the Mosquito Abatement for Safety and Health Act will help Illinois and other states across the nation prevent any more outbreaks from occurring. Among other things, the act will provide grants to states to help them coordinate mosquito control programs to prevent and control mosquito-borne diseases. The bill also directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide training and technical assistance to states and localities for the planning, development, and operation of assessments and plans regarding control programs. We cannot afford to lose more lives to West Nile Virus. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 342.

#### H.R. 5—EFFICIENT ACCESSIBLE LOW-COST TIMELY HEALTH CARE

**HON. JOHN LINDER**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2003*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, the President stated that to prove our health care system we must address excessive lawsuits—a prime cause of high health care costs to improve our health care system—excessive lawsuits. In a recent survey of Georgia doctors, approximately 18 percent expect to stop providing high-risk procedures to limit their liability risk. Nearly 33 percent of obstetrician/gynecologists and 20 percent of family practitioners said they will abandon high-risk procedures, such as delivering babies. More than 11 percent will stop providing emergency room services to reduce liability risk. Rising medical malpractice insurance rates are making it difficult for doctors to continue the life-saving work they love. We all want high quality, affordable health care and we all want to maintain an American system of medicine that serves as the model of proficiency and innovation. But our doctors and hospitals are being wrongly sued, we're paying more to receive quality care, and we are losing quality doctors. I urge my colleagues to pass medical liability reform.